

March 3, 2022

In support of Bill #5283

This letter is in support of Bill #5283, which secures equal funding for agriculture education.

We have several family members who have participated in and greatly benefitted from the Agriculture Education program housed at Suffield High School. They have since graduated with degrees from an Ivy League school and have earned graduate degrees with majors in biology, ecology, business, and education. They currently have a successful organic farming CSA business with hundreds of satisfied customers who want to eat and enjoy healthy locally produced vegetables and beautiful flowers. Area food banks appreciate the truck loads of organic vegetables donated to them each year by the business. Our family members credit the Agriculture Education program for developing and nurturing their interests and for providing skills and values important to their lives and the communities in which they now live and work.

Our granddaughter is looking forward to entering the agriscience program at Suffield High school this fall. She lives in a neighboring community, where some in the school system were hesitant to encourage her in this endeavor, because of the extra transportation costs it would have to bear. How many children who could have benefited from the program were denied the opportunity because their school systems did not want to have to pay the transportation cost on their own?

Thank you for your consideration. Agriculture education benefits entire communities and deserves equal funding.

Sincerely,

Mykola and Karen Ahijevych
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